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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/751,623	01/05/2004	Wolfgang Ebenbeck	CH-7988/LeA 36,377	2430
34947	7590	12/05/2006	EXAMINER	
LANXESS CORPORATION 111 RIDC PARK WEST DRIVE PITTSBURGH, PA 15275-1112			ANDERSON, REBECCA L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1626	
DATE MAILED: 12/05/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/751,623	Applicant(s) EBENBECK ET AL.	
	Examiner Rebecca L. Anderson	Art Unit 1626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5-22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/12/04, 7/30/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-22 are currently pending in the instant application. Claims 5-22 are withdrawn from consideration as being for non-elected subject matter and claims 1-4 are objected and rejected.

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of Group I in the reply filed on 11 October 2006 and the further election of the compound 1,1-difluoro-N,N-2,2-tetra methyl 1-propanamine is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that there is no burdensome search. This is not found persuasive because the inventions are independent and distinct because there is no patentable co-action between the groups and a reference anticipating one member will not render another obvious. Each group is directed to art recognized divergent subject matter which require different searching strategies for each group. Moreover, the examiner must perform a commercial database search on the subject matter of each group in addition to a paper search, which is quite burdensome to the examiner.

Therefore, as stated on pages 4 and 5 of the restriction requirement, **the elected invention for search and examination is the compounds of formula (I) wherein:**

R1 is hydrogen or C1-C12 alkyl;

R2 and **R3** are each independently C1-C12 alkyl;

excluding 1,1-difluoromethyl-N,N-dimethylamine, 1,1-difluoromethyl-N,N-diethylamine, 1,1-difluoromethyl-N,N-diisopropylamine and 1,1-difluoro-N,N-2-trimethyl-1-propanamine.

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The remaining subject matter of claims 1-4 that is not drawn to the above elected invention and the subject matter of claims 5-20 stands withdrawn under 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being for non-elected subject matter. The remaining compounds which are not within the elected invention, which are independent and distinct from the elected invention and do not have unity with the elected compound and are therefore withdrawn by means of a restriction requirement within the claims are, for example, the compounds of the formula (I) wherein R1 is C4-C15-arylalkyl or C3-C14-heteroaryl; and/or R2 and R3 are each independently C4-C15arylalkyl or together are part of a cyclic radical having a total of 3 to 12 carbon atoms or R1 and R2 and/or R3 together are part of a cyclic radical having a total of 3 to 12 carbon atoms, etc.

The above mentioned withdrawn compounds which are withdrawn from consideration as being for nonelected subject matter differ materially in structure and composition from the compounds of the elected invention. The withdrawn compounds differ from those of the elected invention, such as by furanyl, thienyl, and oxazole, etc. which are chemically recognized to differ in structure and function. This recognized chemical diversity of the compounds can be seen by the various classification of these compounds in the U.S. classification system, i.e. class 549 subclass (200)+ furanyl, class 549 subclass (1)+ thienyl,, class 548 subclass (215)+ oxazole, etc. Therefore, again, the compounds which are withdrawn from consideration as being for non-elected subject matter differ materially in structure and composition and have been restricted properly as a reference which anticipated but the elected subject matter would not even render obvious the non-elected subject matter.

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These withdrawn compounds are independent and distinct from the elected invention and do not have unity with the species elected and are therefor withdrawn by means of a restriction requirement within the claims.

The requirement is still deemed proper.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-4 are objected to as containing non-elected subject matter. Claims 1-4 presented drawn solely to the elected invention identified supra as **the elected invention for search and examination** would overcome this objection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 2,859,245. US Patent No. 2,859,245 discloses example XVI, column 6 wherein 1,1-difluoroethyldimethylamine is prepared which corresponds to applicants' instant elected invention wherein R1 is C1alkyl and R2 and R3 are each C1alkyl.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 3,213,062

Determining the scope and contents of the prior art

US Patent No. 3,213,062 discloses the preparation of dimethyl-difluoromethamine in Example XVIII, columns 11 and 12. While dimethyl-difluoromethylamine is excluded from the claimed invention, US Patent No. 3,213,062 also discloses that dimethyldifluoromethylamine is valuable as a treating agent for cellulose products, see column 14.

Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue

The difference between the prior art and the claims at issue is that the prior art of US Patent No. 3,213,062 prepares a specific compound that is excluded from the claimed invention.

Resolving the level or ordinary skill in the pertinent art

However, minus a showing of unobvious results, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to prepare compounds of the formula (I) wherein R1 is hydrogen or C1-C12alkyl and R2 and R3 are each C1-C12 alkyl when faced with the prior art of US Patent No. 3,213,062 which discloses dimethyldifluoromethamine and also discloses that dimethyldifluoromethamine is useful as a treating agent. The motivation to prepare compounds of the formula (I) as instantly claimed would be to prepare additional treating agents for cellulose products. To those skilled in chemical art, one homologue is not such an advance over adjacent member of series as requires invention because chemists knowing properties of one member of series would in general know what to expect in adjacent members. In re Henze, 85 USPQ 261 (1950). The instant claimed compounds would have been obvious because one skilled in the art would have been motivated to prepare homologs of the compounds taught in the reference with the expectation of obtaining compounds which could be used as treating agents. Therefore, the instant claimed compounds would have been suggested to one skilled in the art. It is well established that the substitution of methyl for hydrogen on a known compound is not a patentable modification absent unexpected or unobvious results. In re Wood, 199 U.S.P.Q. 137 (C.C.P.A. 1978) and In re Lohr, 137 U.S.P.Q. 548, 549 (C.C.P.A. 1963). The motivation to make the claimed

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compounds derives from the expectation that structurally similar compounds would possess similar activity (i.e., treating agents).


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Rebecca L. Anderson whose telephone number is (571) 272-0696. Mrs. Anderson can normally be reached Monday through Friday 5:30AM to 2:00PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Mr. Joseph K. McKane, can be reached at (571) 272-0699.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Rebecca Anderson
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1626, Group 1620
Technology Center 1600

November 24, 2006